

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Supply Division, OL

THRU : Chief, Materiel Facilities Branch  
 Chief, [REDACTED]

FROM : Safety Assistant

SUBJECT : Hillside Class V, Class VI Filing Cabinets

1. Sometime in September 1969, [REDACTED] received approximately 130 Hillside Class VI filing cabinets. It is my responsibility to inspect these units before putting them in stock for subsequent issue. Upon my inspecting a number of these units, I determined that a lot of them were very shoddy in construction: locks were loose; there were sharp edges on the drawers and cabinet structures; many sharp edges on weldments; and the metal cover latch scraped the latch hole and developed jagged metal burrs. It was also noted that these cabinets did not meet the specifications of AA-F-358e Int. Amendment-5 (GSA-FSS) dated 5 June 1969 (attachment #1). Specifically, I took exception to the fact that it was possible to secure the lock drawer with any other drawer open 3 inches or less from the fully closed position. Also, drawer pulls were loose, latches were not installed properly, and the drawer metal covers were in a partially open condition when the drawer began its opening cycle prior to depressing of the latch.

2. Since all of the aforementioned problems were of major concern, it was apparent that I had to have help from the Office of Security, Technical Branch (OS/TB). Mr. [REDACTED] of the OS/TB inspected some of the Class VI cabinets at the depot and agreed that action must be taken by our Agency to get GSA to take back all of the 130 units and return them to Hillside Metal Products for repair etc. Through the remainder of 1969 and early 1970, various efforts were made to correct the problem with Hillside. Sometime in early 1970 the Safemasters Company was contracted by Hillside to correct deficiencies we had cited. Safemasters Company only repaired and tried to correct those deficiencies that GSA instructed them to, and this left many faults uncorrected. After inspecting the repairs made by the Safemasters Company I was still not satisfied that the cabinets would stand up under field operating conditions and so informed Mr. Brown, Quality Control GSA representative through their Unit at Crystal City in Arlington, VA. I was told that the repairs made by Safemasters Company were all of the repairs that were going to be made, and that everyone else; DOD, Navy, Army, etc. were accepting the cabinets (as modified). I still insisted that they were inferior in construction and would not meet our requirements. Furthermore,

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I learned it was practically impossible to procure any spare parts for these units. Since our Procurement Division told me that the Agency was going to accept these units as is, I again turned to our OS/TB and they put me in touch with a Mr. Klekner, Physical Security Branch, Office of the Provost Marshall General, on April 1970, at the Pentagon to discuss these Hillside Class VI cabinets (attachment #4). On the morning of 8 April 1970, I received a phone call from Chief, Materiel Facilities Branch, [redacted] telling me that "forget the meeting at the Pentagon with DOD, it had been cancelled." Nothing further was done to solve the problem of faulty safes since that time; we have been issuing these Class VI Hillside cabinets a few at a time. In fact, we still have approximately 25 to 30 units on hand which have never been issued. Our experience on the Hillside Class VI units issued since early 1970 has shown that, in a matter of just a few months after issue, the safes are returned to the depot on a PTI because of many malfunctions that cannot be corrected by the Security Service Safe and Lock Unit.

3. All of the attachments marked # 1 through 4 refer to the central problem of faulty cabinets and were sent to me by Mr. Klekner in hopes it would help me in trying to correct the problems with the Hillside Class VI cabinets.

4. In November 1969, I was notified by the OS/TB that there were 60 Hillside Class V security cabinets at [redacted] and that they would like me to go out to [redacted] to ascertain their acceptability for our use. In view of all of the apparent problems with the Class VI, I counter-suggested that we tranship 5 of these cabinets from [redacted] to [redacted] for my evaluation. (See attached memo dated 20 November 1969, attachment #5).

5. As a result of all the deficiencies noted in my inspection of the above mentioned cabinets, a visit to the U.S. Bureau of Standards was arranged (see memo dated 12 December 1969, attachment #6, and copy of the Laboratory Test Record dated January 20, 1970 for results of test requested by myself and concurred in by Mr. Lawless, GSA Quality Control Center, attachment #7).

6. Since the tests conducted in attachment #3 concluded that the unit was not acceptable, I then proceeded to [redacted] for the purpose of inspecting the remaining 55 Hillside Class V security cabinets. See attached memo dated 1 July 1970 concerning my findings. (attachment #8)

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7. To the best of my knowledge, the aforementioned Hillside (130 Class VI 2 drawer and 60 Class V 4 drawer) are the only units the Agency procured. Competitive pressure exerted by Hillside since 1970 prompted the Agency to buy 2 more cabinets for test and evaluation purposes only. We ran a test and found them to also be inferior and recommended the Agency not purchase any more Hillside equipment. Hillside Metal Products bought out Art Metal Products approximately two years ago (1976) and retained the Art Metal name.

atts a/s

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